

Godly Maturity in Global Perplexity, “What Mature Christian’s do in Perilous Times” - Part 3

Acts 21:19-20 – August 9th, 2009

- Today will be part three of a series titled; “Godly Maturity in Global Perplexity,” “What Mature Christian’s do in Perilous Times.”
- Here in Acts 21, we have a model with which to learn from, and discern how we can respond with spiritual maturity in perilous calamity.
- I don’t want to re-preach the sermons from part one and two, but I do want to set the stage by way of review and introduction to our text.

1. They disagree agreeably (Verses 15-16a)

- Even though they weren’t in agreement that it was God’s will Paul go to Jerusalem, some from Caesarea still agree to join him anyway.

2. They provide hospitality (Verse 16b)

- An early disciple name Mnason opens up his home to Paul in spite of the fact that before his conversion he was a terrorist in Jerusalem.

3. They give financially (Verse 17)

- One of the reasons that Paul was in such a hurry to get to Jerusalem, was so he could bring financial help to that impoverished church.

4. They grow spiritually (Verse 18)

- In spite of the fact that the Jerusalem church was impoverished and suffering financially, they were growing and maturing spiritually!

5. They glorify God continually (Verse 19)

19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

v19 We’re told how Paul after greeting them, gives to them a detailed report of all God had done through his ministry among the gentiles.

- One commentator suggests that he recounted every single thing and didn’t miss any minute detail in his reporting his missionary efforts.

- It’s in Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and Illyricum.

- I imagine that it would be like hearing a detailed report on what God was doing on Maui, the Big Island, Kauai, Molokai, and even Lanai.

- Notice that Paul doesn’t give this detailed report about all that “he” did in all these places. God did this through Paul and his ministry.

“He did not ascribe anything to himself, but modestly and truthfully spoke of what the Lord had wrought through him.”

Charles Spurgeon

- God gets all the glory, all the time, for all He has done, because He is the one Who has done it. No flesh can glory in His presence.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. KJV

- There’s another stream that flows into this river, so to speak, and I would like to take just a few moments on it, as it is very apropos.

- I believe one of the reasons why Paul goes into such detail about all that God is doing is because he knows they need to hear about it.

- When we hear what God is doing, and how God is moving, something rises up within us and propels us forward in our walk of faith.

Romans 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. KJV

6. They praise God fervently (Verse 20a)

20a When they heard this, they praised God. ...

v20a After hearing about all that God had done, they respond by praising God. In the midst of their impending peril, they’re praising God.

- It’s unfortunate however, that in the second part of verse 20 they go from praises to problems. I think it needs to be other way around.

- It’s not that we go from problems to praise, as much as it is that we praise God for what He’s going to do in and through our problems.

James 1:2-4 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. NIV